

THEY OPEN LETTERS

An Interesting Department of Russia's Secret Service.

Now the Czar's Agents Open Letters in Transit Between the German Frontier and Russian Post Office—Clever Work Well Done.

[Special Berlin (Germany) Letter.]

It is astonishing how little really is known about Russia outside of it. Who, for instance, has ever heard of the "Black Chamber?" And yet this is a well-organized department of the Russian secret police, and its workings are known to every Russian of education. I had the good luck to become acquainted recently with the chief of the black chamber, M. Nicanor Novotich, and with his assistant, M. J. Konti, during an official visit they paid the German postal authorities in Berlin. From them I learned something about this most remarkable institution; possible only in a vast country ruled autocratically. I confine myself to repeating, in what follows, substantially what those gentlemen told me themselves, and I presume that may be accepted as truth.

As a preliminary remark I need only say that the manner in which the Russian government views the press is pretty well known. It was soon after the accession of the present czar, a few months ago, when the leading journalists of Russia drew up a petition asking for a reform of the worst abuses they were suffering from, such as the severe penalties inflicted for publication of unfavorable facts, the confiscation of whole issues or the entire suppression of newspapers that had dared to indulge in outspoken language, etc. This petition reached the young czar, but it was indignantly rejected by him, with the remark that newspapers enjoyed all the liberty they deserved in Russia as it was. Some of the petitioners, too, were reprimanded for their boldness. As it is with the press, so, too, it is with private correspondence in Russia, only worse.

Each letter which passes through the Russian mails is subject to a system of espionage which is more thorough than anything the world has ever seen. And it is the province of the black chamber to see to it that nothing offensive to the government be carried by the postal authorities without first being noticed and remembered by the employees of the black chamber. In most instances mail matter which runs counter to its contents to the demands

of the "censor" is withheld and never reaches its destination, while the senders of it are reported to the police for punishment. Exceptions, however, are made when it suits the purposes of the authorities, to leave the addressee and the sender both in the belief that they have remained undiscovered. The Russian laws on censorship are very severe and comprehensive. They forbid the mention of the czar and of his family in private correspondence as well as in the press, and they forbid critical remarks of a religious, philosophical or military character. The black chamber is entrusted with the duty of watching that these prohibitions are complied with.

It is, of course, impossible to open and examine every letter that is conveyed by Russian mails. But the agents, inspectors and examiners of the black chamber number in all several thousands, and they are skillfully distributed in all those towns and cities where dissatisfaction with the prevailing order of things is known to exist, and very little escapes their lynx eyes which is worth seeing. By the government they are empowered to commit any act of indiscretion whatever which seems to be necessary to accomplish their purpose, and the employees of the black chamber during periods of political excitement than during more quiet times, and the amount of work done by them after some particularly atrocious political plot has been hatched or executed is said to be herculean. Generally speaking, though, about every tenth letter sent in the mails is opened by the men of the black chamber.

The particular field worked by these agents is, of course, the correspondence that passes between Russian and foreign parts. As about nine-tenths of this correspondence goes by way of a specially trained corps of agents is always on the express that runs in the direction indicated, and during the twenty-four hours the mail is in transit between the German frontier and the Russian capital, not a piece of it is not fingered or broken open and examined as to its contents. On arrival, of course, there is no delay in delivering this mail, unless withheld for reasons stated above, for then arrangements rendered necessary for this mass of letters is rapidly attended to by those expert hands. Now and then it happens, however, that mistakes are made, as when a Russian residing in Berlin, M. Leskutoff, received an envelope addressed to him, but including a letter evidently intended for a French diplomat in Rome. Errors of this kind occur rarely, and wherever it is possible to ferret out the mischievous agent guilty of it he is subsequently punished for it.

The black chamber methods of opening letters are astonishingly simple and effective. During the time of Napoleon I., when Fouché's agents also closely supervised all correspondence reaching or leaving France, steam was used in loosening one flap of the envelope. The Russian agents proceed more rapidly. They cut open one side of the envelope with peculiar-shaped knives, and the opening, after putting the letter once more where it belongs,

ing letters are astonishingly simple and effective. During the time of Napoleon I., when Fouché's agents also closely supervised all correspondence reaching or leaving France, steam was used in loosening one flap of the envelope. The Russian agents proceed more rapidly. They cut open one side of the envelope with peculiar-shaped knives, and the opening, after putting the letter once more where it belongs,



M. NICANOR NOVOTICH.

is then pasted over with a tiny slice of paper, a camel's hair brush and some gum arabic being the only utensils used. So deftly, however, do these men operate that only a practiced eye can detect the fact that the letter has been interfered with. In a few instances it becomes necessary to open a letter where the back of the envelope meets its center, that being the seal carefully affixed by the sender. But that also presents no difficulty to the Russian agents. They first use a hollow cylinder whose interior contains innumerable steel needles, and the soft pressure of one finger on the spring at the side of this cylinder suffices for a cushion to drop and to group these steel needles exactly in the same shape as the seal or the wax. The wax is now carefully scratched off, and the paper is subjected to steam. After the cushion does its work once more on sealing wax of the right hue dropped in the same spot where the old impression was. The reproduction is perfect, and it proves that there is absolutely no way to avoid the scrutiny of the Russian postal spies.

This system of letter censorship extends, naturally enough, to the diplomatic correspondence going to and from Russia, and the foreign missions at St. Petersburg have often enough complained to their respective governments about the rigorous espionage kept up there. To enable them to send to their own governments diplomatic news and to receive instructions of importance without first having satisfied Russian curiosity, the various embassies and consulates have been forced to adopt private postal facilities of their own. Both the German and the Austrian, as well as the French and Italian, embassies thus receive and send their mail matter from St. Petersburg by trusted express messengers from the German border on to the capital.

The facts which I have cited above seem almost incredible at this late day, yet coming from so unimpeachable a source, they must, nevertheless, be accepted as truth. A member of the Russian embassy in Berlin told me a little occurrence neatly illustrating the exact methods of the black chamber men. While stationed at Sofia, Bulgaria, during the last Russian war with Turkey

this gentleman, whose court connections had at that time rendered him slightly suspicious, sent a private letter to a friend in Moscow, sealing it with a Bulgarian crest and securely fastening the envelope outside with a net of fine twine, again sealed in four places. Before dropping the sealing-wax on the envelope he made his dragonman inscribe on the space below a chifre in Turkish characters. The letter was duly delivered, and as the friend in Moscow scratched off the seal he found the Turkish chifre, too, but somehow it was turned upside down.

WOLF VON SCHIERBRAND.

A Farm Larger Than a State.

The largest ranch now running in full blast in the state of Wyoming is that owned by ex-Senator Warren. The dimensions of this immense "farm" are of such mammoth proportions that figures on its area appear almost fabulous and beyond belief. Its dimensions are 75 by 100 miles, and it is stocked with upwards of 200,000 animals of various kinds, including horses, cattle, sheep, goats, hogs and half-bred buffalo. The itemized inventory shows that 400 horses, 20,000 cattle, and over 150,000 sheep daily graze on the ex-senator's "broad acres." Compared with the state of Rhode Island, this gigantic farm is as a four-horse "bus to a baby cab. The state mentioned is only 37 miles one way and 47 1/2 the other. The farm is 75 by 100 miles.

On the Installation Plan.

"I have come to ask for your daughter's hand, Mr. Herrick," said young Waller, nervously.

"O, well, you can't have it," said Herrick. "I'm not doing out my daughter on the installment plan. When you feel that you can support the whole girl you may call again."—Harper's Bazar.

The New Woman.

She can wear our shoes and jackets, Our collars and cravats; She can wear our trousers, And the latest styles of hats. Each mania find and fancy She copies, if she can. But she cannot take a husband Or grow whippersnappers.

F. D. DAVENPORT.

Physician and Surgeon

Consultation to any part of the county.

141 N. Market St. Kan

A. C. HUSEY,
Manufacturer of CIGARS.
Pipes Repaired on Short Notice
206 N. MAIN ST.

O. G. SMITH
PRACTICAL MACHINIST
All kinds of repair work promptly and skillfully done. Satisfaction guaranteed.
Works, 223 N. Main St.

J. E. STAFFORD'S NEW INVENTION
Address 107 S. MAIN ST. For The Support And Cure OF HERNIA.

Globe Iron Works
Manufacturers of boilers and all kinds of iron and brass castings. Dealer in boiler tubes, steam pipes, brass goods, gum and heavy packing, etc.
A. FLAGG, Prop. Wichita, Kansas

CALL UP PHONE 195
And our wagon will call for your washing. Put neck bands on shirts if you wish. First-class work, only. Day and delivery. Nothing charged.
The Kansas Steam Laundry
122-124 S. Lawrence Ave.

E. J. HEALEY & CO.,
LIVESTOCK COMMISSION MERCHANTS
LIVESTOCK YARDS, WICHITA, KAN.
Special inducement to feeders. Markets furnished.

PAUGH & CO.
LIVE STOCK COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
UNION STOCK YARDS, WICHITA, KAN.
Correspondence received. Markets for RANGE and FEEDERS. Cattle, horses, sheep, swine, etc. Also, all kinds of stock and stock raising supplies.

FAMES MACHINE WORKS.
Build and Repair
ENGINES, BOILERS and MACHINERY
124 S. Washington Ave., Wichita.

BUSINESS
is what you want. Well, it won't come without an effort on your part; so

ADVERTISE

Montague Jacks, Fenton B. Clark
JACKS & CLARK,
EXPERT ACCOUNTANTS.
Court House, Wichita, Kansas
Invoicing and Bookwork a specialty. Work in any part of the state will be given prompt attention. Correspondence strictly confidential. The only thoroughly equipped accountants' bureau in the state.

J. A. BISHOP,
Jobber and Retailer
Paints, Glass, Varnishes
WALL PAPER, BRUSHES.
Write for Prices. Wichita, Kan

Lafayette Hillis, J. C. Kinkadee
Reference, Kansas National Bank
HILLIS & KINKADEE
Rental and Collection Agents
Room 1142 N. Market St., Wichita, Kan.
Houses rented, rents collected, repairs made economically. We solicit the care and sale of property for non-residents.

THE H. H. DEWEY
FIRE INSURANCE AGENCY
WICHITA, KAN.
None but first class companies represented. All who insure with us will find their interests closely guarded.

PROFESSIONALS.
LAWYERS.

A DAMS & ADAMS,
LAWYERS
Eagle Block, Wichita

A. J. MYATT,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
209 North Main St.

BENTLEY & FERGUSON,
LAWYERS,
Rooms 405 & 406 A, Sedgwick Bldg.

CHAS. H. BROOKS,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Office in Zimmerman Building

CAMPBELL & DYER,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW,
134 N. Main St.

J. D. HOUSTON,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Over Fourth National Bank.

J. A. BRUBACHER,
LAWYER,
211 N. Main St.

L. S. NAFTZGER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Office rear Fourth Nat. Bank, Wichita

Wichita Wholesale & Manufacturing Houses.

The houses given below are representative ones in their line, and thoroughly reliable. They are furnished thus for ready reference for the South generally, as well as for city and suburban buyers. Dealers and inquirers should correspond direct with names given.

WICHITA CREAMERY CO.
WHOLESALE DEALERS IN
ALL GRADES OF BUTTER
Refer by Permission to Kansas National Bank.

IDEAL STOVES
WICHITA STOVE AND IRON WORKS,
Manufacturers of
Ideal Cook and Heating Stoves
And Adjustable Stove Repairs.
Architectural Iron Work, Sash Weights, Gate Bars,
Post Nails and Castings of All Kinds.
MOORE BROS., Proprietors, WICHITA

THE C. E. POTTS DRUG COMPANY,
WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS
(Formerly Charles E. Potts & Co., Cincinnati, O.)
Goods Sold at 24, Louis and Kansas City Prices.
233 and 235 South Main Street, Wichita, Kansas

THE WICHITA UNION STOCK YARDS COMPANY,
WICHITA, KANSAS.
CAPACITY 3,000 CATTLE, 5,000 HOGS. Private yards for Texas. Perfect sewerage and city water. All pens covered.
W. K. DULANEY, Superintendent, Stock Yards

ELECTRICAL WORK
Of all kinds promptly done in first-class style, at
WICHITA ELECTRICAL WORKS
229 WEST DOUGLAS AVENUE
PHYSICIANS SUPPLIES A SPECIALTY.

T. B. WALL,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Sedgwick Block,
251 N. Main St. Telephone 135.

THOS. C. WILSON,
LAWYER,
251 N. Main St. Telephone 135.

W. K. STANLEY,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Citizens' Bank Building,
DENTISTS.

H. CREDITOR, D. D. S.
Special attention given to the insertion of Crown and Bridge work.
144 North Main St.

J. C. WILSON, DENTIST.
118 E. Douglas.
Teeth Extracted by Electricity Without Pain. ...
Teeth Filled with Silver. ...
Teeth Filled with Platinum. ...
Teeth Filled with Gold. ...
Best Set of Upper or Lower Teeth, \$2.00. There are no better made, no matter how much you pay.

PHYSICIANS.
M. HOWE, M. D.,
Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat
Office, 402 East Douglas Ave.

E. HAMILTON, M. D.
SPECIALTIES:
Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat.
125 North Market St.

J. G. DORSEY, M. D.,
109 North Main Street.
Practice limited to diseases of the
EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

Dr. J. W. Shultz
SPECIALIST in medical and surgical and electrical treatment of all chronic nervous, skin and private diseases, male and female.
Office, 150 North Main street.

REMOVAL
Dr. C. C. Furlay has removed his office to 140 N. Main St. Office hours 9 to 12 and 2 to 5 o'clock. Residence 1620 N. Lawrence. Telephone 59.

W. D. McCLEES, M. D.
Office and residence over 601-603 East Douglas Avenue.
Office hours 9 to 11 a. m., 1:30 to 4:30 and 7 to 8 p. m. Phone 293.
Any one desiring information after my office hours will please inquire of day or night clerk at Hotel Carey.

ROMIG'S DRUG STORE,
Corner Oak St. and Fourth Ave.
Residence above store. Telephone 289
NO LIQUORS SOLD.

J. P. ALLEN
DRUGGIST.
Everything Kept in a
First Class Drug Store
108 EAST DOUGLAS AVE.,
Wichita, Kan

PHOTOGRAPHERS.
ISRAEL & CO., Successors to "Rogers,"
106 E. Douglas.
Everything new. The very latest technical in retouching direct from Chicago. All kinds of engraving, crayons and pastel work. We range chiefly invite you to call.

ROOT BROS.
Hack and Baggage Line,
Office 114 S. Main, Phone 74.
All calls promptly attended. Passengers and baggage transferred to and from all parts of the city at city ordinance rates.

BANKS.
KANSAS NATIONAL BANK
(Oldest Bank in the Arkansas Valley)
CAPITAL, \$100,000.
SURPLUS, \$10,000.

J. O. DAVIDSON, President
C. H. DAVIDSON, Vice President
ARTHUR FAULKNER, Cashier
J. H. Longstreet, W. W. Johnston, Jr.,
President. Vice President
Chas. H. Pool, Cashier.

SEDGWICK COUNTY BANK.
(Moved to old Wichita National corner)
WICHITA, KAN.
CAPITAL \$50,000
DIRECTORS:
C. W. Sedgwick, of M. H. Roelck & Co., hides and furs.
Chas. Aylesbury, of Aylesbury Mercantile Co., wholesale grocer.
Geo. W. Van Warden, druggist.
A. V. Alexander, of Alexander Lumber Company.
J. L. Johnson, of Wichita Produce Co., wholesale produce.
A. S. Parks, Mgr. United Sash and Door Company.
W. W. Johnston, Jr., of Johnston & Larimer Dry Goods Co., wholesale dry goods.
R. J. Forrest, Importer, New York City.
J. H. Longstreet, Riverside Iron Works, Boardman, N. J.
Chas. H. Pool, Cashier.
Opened for business May 7, 1904.

FOURTH NATIONAL BANK.
WICHITA, KAN.
Capital, \$100,000.00
L. S. NAFTZGER, President.
J. E. POWELL, Vice President.
J. M. MOORE, Cashier.
J. N. RICHARDSON, Asst. Cash.
DIRECTORS:
M. T. Borwell, J. E. Campbell,
R. L. Powell, W. W. Johnston,
R. L. Holmes, J. M. Moore,
L. S. Naftzger.
A General Banking Business Transacted.

DAVIDSON & CASE
Successors to John Davidson, Pioneer Lumberman of Sedgwick county.
Established in 1870.
A Complete Stock of
Pine Lumber, Shingles
Lath, Doors, Sash, etc.
Always on hand.
Office and yards on Mosley avenue, between Douglas avenue and First street. Branch Yards at Union City, Oklahoma City, El Reno, Waco, Pott Creek, Enid, Choctaw City and Dale.

F. F. PARSONS,
Contractor and Builder. Estimates furnished on all classes of buildings either in city or country. Job work in city given careful attention. Office 117 South Lawrence Ave., Wichita, Kansas

FLORESTA.
W. H. CULP & CO.,
FLORESTA
Dealers in Florida, Florida, Florida and Cut Flowers. Potted and other decorative plants especially. Prompt and careful service given to all mail and telephone orders for cut flowers and floral designs. Prices reasonable.

W. H. CULP & CO.,
FLORESTA
Dealers in Florida, Florida, Florida and Cut Flowers. Potted and other decorative plants especially. Prompt and careful service given to all mail and telephone orders for cut flowers and floral designs. Prices reasonable.

W. H. CULP & CO.,
FLORESTA
Dealers in Florida, Florida, Florida and Cut Flowers. Potted and other decorative plants especially. Prompt and careful service given to all mail and telephone orders for cut flowers and floral designs. Prices reasonable.

W. H. CULP & CO.,
FLORESTA
Dealers in Florida, Florida, Florida and Cut Flowers. Potted and other decorative plants especially. Prompt and careful service given to all mail and telephone orders for cut flowers and floral designs. Prices reasonable.

W. H. CULP & CO.,
FLORESTA
Dealers in Florida, Florida, Florida and Cut Flowers. Potted and other decorative plants especially. Prompt and careful service given to all mail and telephone orders for cut flowers and floral designs. Prices reasonable.

KEEP YOUR BLOOD PURE
"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."
DR. DUTTON'S VEGETABLE DISCOVERY

THE WORLD-FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE.
Is a guaranteed cure for all blood diseases. It is the most searching blood cleanser ever discovered and it will free the system from all known blood poisons, be they animal, vegetable or mineral. It is warranted to cure the worst forms of SKIN DISEASES, ERYTHEMA, PIMPLES AND ERUPTIONS; also GLANDULAR SWELLINGS, SCROFULOUS and ULCERATED SORES, RINGWORMS, RINGWORMS, SCALD HEADS, SORE EYES, ERYTHRODERMA, ITCH, SCURF, ECZEMA, DISCOLORATION OF THE SKIN, HUMORS AND DISEASES OF THE SKIN, of whatever name or nature. FROM INFANCY TO OLD AGE they are literally carried out of the system in a short time by the use of this wonderful medicine. As it is warranted free from anything injurious to the most delicate constitution of either sex, we solicit sufferers to give it a trial to test its value.

How is it DR. DUTTON'S VEGETABLE DISCOVERY has obtained such great popularity is a question which has perplexed many. The answer is plain and simple enough, and it is this: It is unquestionably the Finest Blood Purifier for that science and medical skill have brought to light, and thousands of wonderful cures effected by it have stamped it as one of the most extraordinary discoveries of modern times.

DR. DUTTON'S VEGETABLE DISCOVERY is not beneficial for one class of disease only; it is universal and its curative powers in all blood and skin diseases, and for all ailments arising from deficiency or weakness of the blood, or when it has been contaminated, either by an unnatural way of living, breathing foul or obnoxious air, drinking pernicious liquids, eating unwholesome food or indulgence of exhausting passions or vices.

W. O. GOODIN, General State Agent, 621 E. Oak St., Wichita

WICHITA AGENCY FOR THE
Halstead and Newton Milling Co.
We make the best flour in the state. Write for prices.
SECOND TO NONE, KANSAS PATENT, TRUE GRIT, U. S. PATENT
CREAM OF KANSAS, NIAGARA PATENT, EYE FLOUR.
OTTO WEISS, Agent, 605 East Douglas Avenue, Wichita, Kan

1884. WICHITA WHOLESALE GROCERY CO. 1894.
WHOLESALE - GROCERS.
OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE COR. TENTH AND WILLIAM STREETS.
Keep everything in the grocery line, such as Canned Goods and Groceries. Also, sole proprietors of the "Piper Heidsieck," "El Conquistador" and "La Inocencia" brands of Cigars.

LEHMAN-HIGGINSON GROCER CO.
Wholesale Grocers.
203 AND 205 N. WATER STREET.
AYLESBURY MERCANTILE CO.
REMOVED TO THE BUILDING FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY STEELE & WALKER, COR. THIRD ST. AND FIFTH AVE.
WHOLESALE GROCERS,
Jobbers of Teas, Cigars and Spices
Sole Agents for Alvarado and Figuereta Cigars.

BERTRAM & BERTRAM
Contract to fit houses complete with Plumbing, Heating, Gas Fitting and Sewerage according to the new city ordinance. Full line of new rubber hose, lawn and garden fresh from the factory and guaranteed to stand 150 and 300 pounds pressure. Will replace any defective sections.
Telephone 266. Office in Stem Block, on South Lawrence.

G. W. BENNETT,
Practical Plumber, Gas, Steam and Water Fitter
HYDRANTS, ROSE AND ROSE BOXES
121 W. Douglas. Wichita

L. C. JACKSON,
DISTRICT AGENT FOR
Santa Fe Coals
AND JOBBER OF
Building Material
112 South Fourth Avenue, Wichita, Kansas.

ISRAEL BROS.
Real Estate and Rents.
We have the only Carpet Layer in the West, and have just added machinery for dry cleaning of every kind, with extra rigging. Portiers, Chenilles and Carrels of all styles cleaned and guaranteed to give satisfaction. Our reference the best in the city. Office—101 S. Main St. Factory—101 West Douglas Ave.

Wichita Steam Dyeing Co.
We have the only Carpet Layer in the West, and have just added machinery for dry cleaning of every kind, with extra rigging. Portiers, Chenilles and Carrels of all styles cleaned and guaranteed to give satisfaction. Our reference the best in the city. Office—101 S. Main St. Factory—101 West Douglas Ave.

Everybody's Favorite
HUNTER'S
CREAM FLOUR
Hunter Milling Co.
11 S. Williams, Agents
223 S. Main. Phone 164

CITY BAKING MILLS
"IMPERIAL."
Baking Powders, Extracts, Spices,
Dry and Wet Mustard, Blueing, Etc.
H. T. KRAMER, Manager.

Wichita Steam Dyeing Co.
We have the only Carpet Layer in the West, and have just added machinery for dry cleaning of every kind, with extra rigging. Portiers, Chenilles and Carrels of all styles cleaned and guaranteed to give satisfaction. Our reference the best in the city. Office—101 S. Main St. Factory—101 West Douglas Ave.

EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE
HUNTER'S
CREAM FLOUR
Hunter Milling Co.
11 S. Williams, Agents
223 S. Main. Phone 164

EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE
HUNTER'S
CREAM FLOUR
Hunter Milling Co.
11 S. Williams, Agents
223 S. Main. Phone 164